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HIDALGO ENTERPRISE

Sheriff Closner's Plantation Model of Progress.

Besides Fruit and Truck, Carries on Large Sugar Industry. Buys Large Improved Sugar Mill.

John Closner, the whole-souled and progressive chief executive officer of Hidalgo county, has been lending the pleasure of his presence to his Brownsville friends for a few days, while waiting to receive some material which is on the steamer, and THE HERALD has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn something of the extensive irrigated plantation and sugar industry which he owns. Sheriff Closner is one of the pioneer irrigationists of this frontier. While there was still nothing but hope to lead us to believe that a railroad would come Rio Grande-ward very soon, he has spending his money and energies, putting in irrigation machinery and experimenting with various irrigated crops on his plantation, the San Juan hacienda, in Hidalgo county.

As sheriff of said county, he has the proud distinction of running one of the best conducted, most law-abiding counties in the state of Texas. Combined with his duties as peace officer, he conducts with equal success one of the finest and most prosperous irrigated plantations on the lower Rio Grande. The San Juan plantation is famous throughout this region. For early vegetables and fine fruits, it shows plainly what this soil and climate can do, with irrigation. His beautiful banana groves are one of the sights of that vicinity.

Some years ago, Mr. Closner began the culture of sugar-cane on a small scale, at first making the product into piloncillo. Later he put in a sugar mill, which proved an entire success, and at once the Closner sugar took first rank. In line with his accustomed progressive policy, he has extended his cane-fields, until at last it became apparent that a larger sugar mill would be necessary to handle the product. As reported recently in THE HERALD, he has just made a trip to Fort Bend county to inspect some sugar machinery with a view of buying. The result was that he purchased an improved sugar refining outfit from the state farm there, which has a capacity of two hundred tons per day. He has made arrangements to ship the machinery over the Lott road as far as the road extends, and will haul it by wagon from the end of the track to his plantation in Hidalgo county. The machinery will be shipped about April 10.

John Closner is a mover. He makes up his mind, and then loses no time in acting. He will have his fine sugar refinery plant erected and ready for business by the time the cane is ready for cutting. The capacity of his present mill is only fifty tons per day. With this plant he made last season 300,000 pounds of sugar. This season he will make a larger quantity of the best refined sugar. He now has under cultivation three hundred acres of cane, which is fifty acres more than last season.

Besides his cane fields, Mr. Closner also has about 105 acres in alfalfa this season, from which he is already cutting and baling his first crop. Needless to say, with the prevailing scarcity of grass and forage, his alfalfa will be little less than a gold mine for him this year. If you want to learn how to succeed on the lower Rio Grande, railroad or no railroad, just keep your optics on John Closner of Hidalgo county.

The boll weevil has made its appearance at Gonzalez.

TO INVESTIGATE OYSTER REEFS.

The Fish Hawk to Visit the Texas Coast Next Summer.

Commissioner Bowers of the bureau of fisheries today informed Representative Burleson that the Fish Hawk, the vessel used by that bureau in the prosecution of the work, would assuredly be sent to the Texas coast for the purpose of beginning a survey of the oyster reefs of that State. This action results from the formal request for a survey made recently by Governor Lanham, who, in turn, acted on the request of W. Jack Bryan Houston, who has made a close study of the Texas oyster fields and who has printed much valuable information concerning them in the columns of the Post. Mr. Bowers says the Fish Hawk will reach Texas some time during next August or September. At this time she is engaged elsewhere and the commissioner is unable to designate the exact date.—Post Washington Special.

The Drift is Parkerwards.

The drift throughout the country is Parkerwards. This assertion is based upon the admissions of some of the strongest Cleveland papers in the nation.

That there is a landslide toward the great jurist in Georgia is conceded by the Atlanta Journal, which has always been a strenuous champion of Grover, and whose former owner, Hoke Smith, was a member of Cleveland's cabinet.

That the sentiment in Tennessee sets with irresistible tide in the same direction is admitted by the Nashville American, which is chief incense burner to Cleveland among the newspapers of this State.

That the current is just as strong towards Parker in Alabama is indicated by the Birmingham papers, which have been heretofore prone to laud Grover above all men.

What is true of these States is, we believe, true also of nearly all, if not quite all, of the Southern States. In view of these facts we are at a loss to account for the persistent efforts of certain papers to make it appear that the sentiment of this section of the nation is toward the former president.

There are numbers of people in almost every considerable town that were gold democrats in 1896 who either voted against the regular democratic ticket or were not in sympathy with it. They are in most cases men of wealth and position. When anybody is asked by a newspaper man to talk on the presidential nomination it is these men who are approached first for an opinion. Most of them naturally express their preference for Cleveland, though many of them admit that his nomination would not be wisest and best for the party.

The men who are for Parker are likely to be the unflinching regulars, but they are not so ready to express opinions. They constitute, for the most part, the rank and file of the boys in the trenches, who do more fighting than talking in every campaign.

Of course there is many a slip between the cup and the lip, and conditions may change radically before July 6; but there is certainly at this time a tide of tremendous though quiet strength that is sweeping Parker toward the White House.—Memphis News.

The Horse Treated More Mercifully.

It is noted by a Kansas paper that in a recent prairie fire a man and his team of horses were fatally burned. The horses were at once shot to put them out of their misery. The man had morphine pumped into him and was compelled to pass four horrible days divided between periods of stupefaction and periods of untold agony.—Kansas City Star.

TARGET SHOOTING AT EIGHTEEN HUNDRED YARDS

New Army Rifle Making Great Record at Long-Range Tests in Spite of Wind.

Bracketville, Tex., March 28.—Major General Sumner, division commander, made regimental review of troops at Fort Clark this morning. In the afternoon he visited the practice of the new Springfield rifle at Las Moras mountain. The practice today was in wind twenty miles per hour, but some good scores were made. At 1700 yards one record of ten shots had a widest vertical range of about four feet and center of impact one inch off the line. The range increased in the afternoon to 1800 yards, and a record of ten shots was made with widest vertical range of sixty-four inches, center of impact about four inches from the line.

FREE TRIP FOR DOCTORS.

Health Officers Attend Dr. Tabor's Conference.

Austin, Tex., March 28.—State Health Officer Tabor today received good news relative to the conference of county and city health officers he has called to meet in this city on Thursday of this week. The lines composing the Sunset-Central system today informed him that they have decided to give free transportation to the health officers on their lines in their journey to and from the Austin conference which is to take steps to secure uniform and thorough precautions in disinfection and sanitation to prevent the introduction of yellow fever into Texas during the coming summer. The offer of free transportation comes from the Houston East & West Texas, Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio, Texas & New Orleans, Galveston, Houston & Northern, New York, Texas & Mexican, Gulf, Western Texas & Pacific and Houston & Texas Central. This insures a splendid attendance from South and Southwest Texas, the country adjacent to Mexico, and which is vitally interested in preventing the spread of yellow fever.

Dr. Edmund Souchon, president of the Louisiana State Board of Health, will be present, accompanied by two other members of the board. Dr. Arthur Nolte and Dr. J. C. Eagan. A representative of the United States Marine Hospital Service will be in attendance.

GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY.

Latest Events of Interest Told by the City Newspapers.

Delegates to the New York democratic state convention were elected Tuesday. The result probably decides whether Parker will be the nominee.

A clerk in the White House at Washington killed his wife and himself on account of financial troubles.

The French chamber of deputies has passed a bill prohibiting religious orders from teaching in France.

Three big labor strikes will probably occur in New York May 1, involving 30,000 men.

U. S. Senator J. R. Burton of Kansas was convicted in the U. S. district court at St. Louis of having accepted a bribe. Motion for a new trial was filed. The jury deliberated forty-one hours in the case.

Ninety persons were killed and \$5,000,000 damage caused by a tornado in the Reunion Islands, Indian Ocean.

The Vatican is said to be guarded by soldiers on account of a plot to kill the Pope.

TRIP ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Sergt. Grum Relates His Interesting Experience.

Visits Honolulu, the Most Beautiful of Cities, Also Manila and Nagasaki, where he Read The Herald.

A very interesting letter was received by J. K. Powers, caretaker of the National cemetery, from his friend Sergeant Wm. Grum, who was formerly stationed at Fort Brown, but who has been for some time on duty on the government transport Thomas, between San Francisco and Manila. Sergeant Grum's old friends here will be interested in his description of his latest voyage across the broad Pacific, which Mr. Powers kindly permits THE HERALD to copy from the sergeant's letter, being as follows:

Now let me tell you something of my trip. We left San Francisco on the transport Thomas Jan. 1, arriving in Honolulu Jan. 8 at 10 a. m., breaking the record of transports. I was sick only once (the second day from Frisco) and after a good cry of "New York" regained my appetite and never had another sick spell. At Honolulu I met several old friends—hospital stewards and sergeants—who entertained me in good style and showed me the sights.

I have seen many cities in this and the old country, but Honolulu in my estimation is the most beautiful spot on earth. It looked to me like a well kept flower garden. I was surprised to find such fine residences, hotels, churches, etc. The Masons also own a fine temple.

After taking on a few hundred tons of coal, we left Honolulu on the evening of Jan. 9. for Cuba, where we arrived Jan. 21, staying only about two hours. Nobody went ashore, as we anchored over a mile away. Cannot say anything of Guam, except that members of the navy say it is very lonesome.

We arrived at Manila Jan. 26, which in the States was Jan. 25, after a very pleasant trip. We had only two troops of cavalry and some hospital corps men on board, therefore our duties were light—sales from two to three p. m.

We laid over at Manila till Feb. 15, the transport being anchored two miles from shore. My visits to the city were few. I found lots of old friends there, but the city is not my liking—very hot and built more like Mexican cities—in the style of Matamoros.

The long lay-over without having to do somewhat disgusted me and was glad when the troops came on board Feb 12—the whole Eleventh infantry with band, four companies of Philippine scouts, bound for the Worlds Fair, with a first class band of thirty-five or forty pieces. We also had about 300 casuals, i. e. sick men to be shortly discharged and those on furlough. On the morning of the thirteenth we proceeded to the quarantine station, 30 miles from Manila, where every man on board including the crew had to take a steam bath and where all soldiers' effects and clothing were disinfected. On the morning of the fifteenth we returned to Manila, took on the first class passengers, and left at 3 p. m. the same day for Nagasaki, Japan, arriving there the morning of the twentieth.

This is the greatest place for getting broke financially you ever saw. As soon as we anchored, hundreds of Japs with their wares came on board and spread things out for sale, all over the boat, I bought a set of dishes (fifty-five pieces) also several playthings for my boy.

Nagasaki has a fine harbor. We lay

only about 200 yards from shore. Several regiments of Jap cavalry embarked for Korea and everything looked like war. We loaded 2000 tons of coal which took three days, the coal being passed in small buckets by men and women from lighters.

Nobody walks in Japan. As soon as you get ashore there are hundreds of rickshaws, a two wheeled rig only for one person pulled by a Jap who will pull you around in a trot for miles for fifty cents (Jap) for the first hour and twenty five cents for each hour afterwards. I found it very amusing. Americans are well treated by the Japs and mostly all understand some English.

We left Nagasaki Feb. 22, arrived at Honolulu March 7, at six a. m. left again at five p. m. the same day, arrived at San Francisco at 9 p. m. March 24. Of the Brownsville Herald which you sent Mrs. Grum, she forwarded some of them with your first letter to me at Nagasaki and some to Honolulu. read them carefully and enjoyed them very much.

SHERIFF PAYS A FINE.

Struck a Man On the Nose and then Paid the Penalty.

Dallas, Tex., March 28.—Sheriff J. R. Johnson surrendered to the police Sunday and this morning paid a nominal fine on the charge of assault and battery on the person of Duboise Goldman. It appears that Johnson and Goldman had a disagreement on the corner of Main and Akard streets while Johnson sat in his buggy. It is said that Goldman received a blow from Johnson which took effect on his nose. Sheriff Johnson then walked to police headquarters and gave himself up. He was released on his own recognizance and showed up in time to pay his fine this morning.

OUTPUT OF GOLD WILL BE GREAT

Alaska Seems Facing the Greatest Season to Date.

Seattle, Wash., March 28.—A special from Dawson says:

The Nome News of January 20 review the activity of the mines as follows:

Judging from the amount of work in progress this winter in the mines of Cape Nome mining district, the output of gold next spring will be the greatest in the history of Seward peninsular. And what is remarkable in this statement is the fact that no "big companies" are operating on an extensive scale.

MRS. SWENDEN SWINDLED.

Loaned \$850 On a Box of Alleged Radium—the Swindler Arrested.

Waco, Tex., March 28.—Mrs. Fortune Rousel Ryan is in custody of the Sheriff on a charge of obtaining \$850 from Mrs. Mary Swenden by unlawful means. The complaint states that Mrs. Ryan handed Mrs. Swenden a tin box, alleging that it contained radium, as security for the sum of money mentioned, and that when the box was opened it was found to contain a treatise on medicine, a few papers and no radium, as had been represented. Mrs. Ryan is well known in Texas and other States as the inventor of several processes and appliances designed for scientific research and for medical and surgical uses. In some of her patents prominent citizens of several cities in Texas and other States own interest.

The grand jury took up the matter today and examined a number of witnesses. It is a case of national interest.

An official list of insurance companies doing business in Texas shows sixty domestic fire and marine and nineteen foreign companies doing business. There are three old line insurance companies of Texas origin, and seven companies which do an exclusive marine business.